



# Edgewood Explorer

PRESERVE • EDUCATE • RESTORE

March 2013

Volume 20 Number 1

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

*by Bill Korbholz, FoE Board President.*

Edgewood County Park and Natural Preserve is a pretty special place, as we all know. And for 20 years, the Friends of Edgewood has been helping to preserve and restore it and to educate the public about it (see article “YEAR OF EDGEWOOD”).

But since the Bill and Jean Lane Education Center (Ed Center) opened in 2011, I feel that our organization has grown tremendously in so many ways. First and foremost, we had to figure out what it meant to run the Ed Center. Laurie Alexander, our marvelous Ed Center Coordinator, jumped in and organized everything from the office, staffing, programs, public relations, transforming a building into a first-rate educational facility. Results speak for themselves: we’ve had over 15,000 visitors since we opened, and guest feedback is consistently positive. Last year’s Bluebird Summer program was a particularly great success.

If the Ed Center was the beginning of our maturation, the development of our Year of Edgewood program (see article “YEAR OF EDGEWOOD”) has furthered it. This year our name will have greater exposure than ever before. With cooperation and support from San Mateo County Parks, we will bring lots of visitors to Edgewood to experience the Preserve in ways that have never before been possible.

Also this year, we added three terrific Directors to our Board. And we are now offering year-round docent-led walks on the third Saturday of every month.

The Edgewood Weed Warriors (EWW), a CNPS (California Native Plant Society) activity led by Drew Shell, is celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> year and is stronger than ever. Visitors often remark how beautiful the park looks and express their gratitude to the EWW for keeping out those undesirable

weeds. The Friends of Edgewood is proud to be the primary underwriter of the EWW activities.

And let’s talk about butterflies. The Bay checkerspot butterfly restoration program, run by Creekside Center for Earth Observation, continues this year with the transfer of more caterpillars from Coyote Ridge. So far, the results from last year’s reintroduction look very promising.

With the advent of our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and the significance of the Bay checkerspot butterfly to Edgewood and to our organization, we have developed a new logo, shown in the masthead of the Explorer.

Of course, none of this can happen without the dedicated support from our members, volunteers, and donors. You provide the resources that enable us to do everything that we do. We thank you and hope to see you at one of the many exciting activities at Edgewood in this, our 20<sup>th</sup>, year.

## IN THIS EXPLORER...

- Message from the President..... 1
- Year of Edgewood..... 2
- Education Center Stats..... 2
- California’s Plant Biodiversity..... 3
- Bryophytes..... 4
- (Wildflower Walk Insert)**
- Congratulations/Coyote Ridge Hikes/  
    Birthday Party..... 5
- Nature Journaling Workshops..... 6
- Raise Money for Parks..... 6
- EWW Volunteer Hours..... 6
- Digital News Option..... 7
- Membership Form..... 7
- EC Hours, 2013 Board, Events..... 8

## YEAR OF EDGEWOOD

by Bill Korbholz

Welcome to 2013, the Year of Edgewood! All year long, we are celebrating our organization's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary as well as the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the designation of Edgewood Park as a Natural Preserve. We are very proud of what we have accomplished in these 20 years, and we wanted to share our pride and joy with the public by presenting a year's worth of special events at Edgewood.

**The Friends of Edgewood and San Mateo County Parks Present**  
2013: Year of Edgewood

A series of special limited-access events celebrating the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Friends of Edgewood and of the designation of Edgewood County Park as a Natural Preserve

**Nature Journaling**  
Nature Journal Workshop with John Muir Laws. Second Tuesday of each month in 2013, 9:30 - 5 pm. Education Center.

**Bay Checkerspot Butterfly Protection**  
Defy Extinction: Adopt a Bay Checkerspot Butterfly Caterpillar. Feb. 21 and Feb. 24, 3 - 4:30 pm. Clarkia Trailhead.  
Citizen Science: Monitoring Bay Checkerspot Butterflies. Mar. 24 through Apr. 6, 1 - 4 pm. Clarkia Trailhead.

**Special Nature Walks**

Edgewood's Hidden Secrets with Diane West-Bourke. Mar. 9, 1 - 4 pm. Education Center.  
The Bay Checkerspot Butterfly Story with Dr. Stuart Weiss. Apr. 13, 1 - 4 pm. Clarkia Trailhead.  
Edgewood Binder's Delight with Sequoia Audubon Society. Mar. 10, Apr. 14, May 12, 8 - 11 am. Education Center.  
Helping Hands for Healthy Lands with Drew Shell. May 19, 1 - 4 pm. Education Center.  
Inspirational Sunset with Walter Moore. Jun. 23, 6:30 - 9:30 pm. Education Center.  
Explore Edgewood at Night. Jul. 13, Jul. 19, 6:30 - 11 pm. Education Center.  
Summer Stargazing. Aug. 13, 7 - 11 pm. Clarkia Trailhead.  
Fall Equinox with Toni Corelli. Sep. 22, 1 - 4 pm. Education Center.

**Photography Walks**  
Sunrise, Sunset, and Moonrise Photography with Nate Donovan. Sunrise Nov. 2, 6 - 9 am. Sunset/Moonrise Nov. 17, 3:30 - 6:30 pm. Clarkia Trailhead.

**Edgewood Memories**  
Memories of Edgewood with Mitch Postel. Oct. 19, 1 - 3 pm. Education Center.

**Birthday Party**  
20<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party for Friends of Edgewood and Edgewood Natural Preserve. May 11, 1 - 4 pm. Education Center.

All events described above are open to the public. Donations are suggested and appreciated. Proceeds support the Friends of Edgewood habitat management and educational programs. Dates and times are subject to change due to weather or other unexpected conditions.  
Space is limited for all events but the Birthday Party, and participants for those events must register in advance.  
For more information and to register, visit [www.friendsofedgeswood.org](http://www.friendsofedgeswood.org).


checkerspot butterfly from within the butterfly habitat at the height of the flowering season.

Drew Shell, program chair of the Edgewood Weed Warriors, will lead a walk describing the phenomenally successful weeding program at Edgewood, now in its 25<sup>th</sup> year. Professional photographer Nate Donovan will demonstrate photography techniques under unusual light in two walks: one at sunrise and the other at sunset/moonrise. And Mitch Postel, Executive Director of the San Mateo County Historical Association, will lead a discussion panel on the history of Edgewood.

We're also offering monthly Nature Journal Workshops with author and artist John Muir Laws. In addition, acclaimed local naturalists Diane West-Bourke and Toni Corelli will be leading special walks at Edgewood.

We're throwing ourselves a Birthday Party on May 11, and the public is invited. There will be birthday refreshments, special activities for kids and adults, and appearances by local dignitaries.

Perhaps one of the coolest events, which recently occurred, was "[Defy Extinction](#)." Guests were allowed to adopt a Bay checkerspot butterfly caterpillar and place it in the butterfly habitat in an effort to help prevent the local extinction of this threatened animal.

We are limiting the number of guests at all of the walking events to 20 (exception: Walter Moore's Inspirational Sunset is limited to 30). In order to impose this limit, we're using an online registration system. If you are interested in attending any of these events, please visit [www.friendsofedgeswood.org](http://www.friendsofedgeswood.org). All events are free, with a suggested donation to help defray our costs and support our habitat management and educational/interpretive programs. 

Most of these events have never before been available to the public. Do you like nighttime walks for stargazing or critter viewing? Or, how about enjoying the sunset from Inspiration Heights with POST's Executive Director Walter Moore (spoiler alert: wine and cheese may be present!)? If you're interested in conservation, you won't want to miss Stuart Weiss tell the fascinating story of the restoration of the Bay

## Education Center Visitors



Time Period	Adults	Children	TOTAL
Apr '11 - Mar '12 (Inaugural Year)	7474	2363	9837
Apr '12 - Jan '13	5384	2016	7400

## Why California's Cup Runneth Over

by Carolyn J. Strange

California possesses extraordinary plant biodiversity, outshining the rest of the country and most of the world. Edgewood helps preserve some of this bio-treasure. But how did this abundant species richness come about? Older assumptions and a landmark 1978 study credited a high speciation rate, new species arising more quickly here. Now a new study attributes California's rich biodiversity to low extinction rates instead. The researchers say that forgiving features such as latitude, climate and diverse topography provided refuge over the past 45 million years, which preserved species.

California boasts more than 5,500 native plant species, 40 percent of them endemic (occurring nowhere else). No other U.S. state rivals these statistics. All the regions of the world that have the Mediterranean climate of wet winters and dry summers are plant biodiversity hotspots: California, the cape of Africa, Southwestern Australia, the west coast of Chile, and the Mediterranean basin. California also has a large number of relatively young species, which might seem to point to a high speciation rate.



© 2009 Laurie Alexander

The 1978 study relied on analyses of fossil data and plant distributions. Its authors hypothesized that the onset, 3 to 5 million years ago, of the Mediterranean climate boosted speciation.

The new study is the first to address California's biodiversity question using modern genetic analysis methods. Researchers chose 16 plant lineages that are well represented both within and outside of California. Each lineage also included California endemic species. Genetic data was used to construct "family trees," and fossil records were used to calibrate when branches diverged. Historical rates of speciation, extinction and migration were then estimated.

The study found no evidence that the Mediterranean climate spurred speciation. Rather, it was low extinction rates over longer time periods that produced California's species richness. The same may be true of other Mediterranean climate regions as well, all of which share moderating characteristics that predate the onset of the climate pattern. Like California, their latitudes allowed them to avoid historical periods of glaciations, and moisture-laden onshore ocean air currents prevented desertification during warmer global periods.

Topographical diversity probably plays a critical role in preserving species. Varied topography tends to foster more niches and allow more species to coexist. Mountains are particularly important during times of climate change because species may be able to remain within a temperature range by moving up or down in altitude rather than traveling hundreds of miles in latitude. Mountains also influence precipitation, capturing moisture from air masses coming off the ocean.

California has been an important refuge for plant lineages for a long time, and the new findings speak to the importance of protecting areas of California so that it can continue as a biodiversity refuge for the future, the researchers say.

It seems that Edgewood is a preserve within a preserve—a very "California" thing to be!

Reference:

<http://news.ucsc.edu/2013/01/california-flora.html>

## Rainy Revival: Ferns, Bryophytes and Early Blooms...

by Mary Wilson



*Editor's Note: Mary Wilson, who recently retired from College of San Mateo as an assistant professor of biology, led our January 2013, Third Saturday, nature walk focusing on ferns and bryophytes. The following excerpt summarizes what Mary has to share about bryophytes.*

This winter has been perfect for the bryophytes at Edgewood Park. Bryophytes are the mosses and liverworts that green up and become conspicuous only during our cool, wet winter. Despite mosses covering whole sides of some trees with a green layer, the individual plants are



tiny. Each plant consists of rhizoids that anchor the plant but do not function as roots and a stem with leaves growing along it. Some species of moss have short-stemmed upright plants. Other species have stems that grow horizontally, can be several inches long, and may branch. Both types of moss grow in dense clumps and layers that retain films of water between their leaves, stems, and neighboring plants. Unlike seed plants, mosses are always as moist or dry as their environment. When it is wet and cool, mosses absorb water through all parts of the plant, turn green, and grow. When it is hot and/or dry, they lose their green color as their water evaporates from all parts of the plants, their leaves close up, and their stems curl up so well that they are often unnoticeable. They seem to go dormant just as the seedlings of other plants start to take over the trailside banks. Speaking of banks, bryophytes are so small that they must grow on banks of soil, tree trunks, or sides of rocks to avoid being smothered by dropped leaves.

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Liverwort plants are individually much larger than moss plants, but they are still tricky to pick out among the general greenery on a trailside bank. Instead of the stem and leaf pattern, liverworts grow a thallus, a sheet of green tissue that is flat except for ruffled edges. Like the mosses, liverwort thalli grow close together and often cover several inches of ground. To see patches of liverworts you need to look carefully at the trailside banks along the South Sylvan and Edgewood Trails in the wooded areas. Liverworts come in two “flavors” – thalloid and leafy. The thalloid liverworts are the most conspicuous. A thallus (their “body”) consists of a flat, green, notched structure that clings to the slope very closely, anchored by rhizoids. The edges of the thallus often look ruffled. The notches give rise to two new thalli, one on each side of the notch. This way of growing – producing two new thalli at the tips of each thallus - sometimes produces a ring of thalli all growing outwards. Liverworts, like mosses, also rely on films of water between the thalli and the ground and between the thalli and neighboring mosses. The leafy liverworts are dark green, somewhat translucent-looking and well hidden among other liverworts or mosses.



© 2013 Mary Wilson

### Sources:

Conard, Henry S. *How to Know the Mosses and Liverworts*. WM. C. Brown Company Publishers. Dubuque, Iowa; 1956.  
Kimmerer, Robin Wall. *Gathering Moss*. Oregon State University Press. Corvallis, Oregon; 2003.  
Raven PH, Evert RF, and Eichhorn SE. *Biology of Plants*, 5th ed. Worth Publishers, Inc., New York; 1992.

## Congratulations!

by Gary Lockman, San Mateo County Parks Superintendent

On behalf of the San Mateo County Parks staff, I want to send along congratulations to the Friends of Edgewood Natural Preserve for 20 years of outstanding volunteer service. Over these past two decades, I have watched the Friends grow from a small core of dedicated individuals into a large cohesive community-based group with clear strategic priorities and the ability to develop resources to address them. Over these many years, the Friends of Edgewood has been very instrumental in contributing to the restoration, development, and protection of Edgewood.

The Friends' first strategic priority, to restore, preserve, and protect Edgewood's natural resources, really forms the basis of everything you do. You support and promote the weed management work being performed by the California Native Plant Society in many ways, not the least of which is by providing funding for labor and equipment to supplement the volunteer work of the Edgewood Weed Warriors. This difficult work performed by so many dedicated individuals has really made a significant difference in restoring Edgewood's fragile habitat and facilitated the reintroduction of the Bay checkerspot butterfly.

The Friends' second priority, inspiring stewardship of Edgewood, is being accomplished by offering educational and interpretive natural history programs for people of all ages. This is best exemplified by two areas of activity. First, the Friends offer docent-led interpretive walks for both youth and adults. These walks highlight the unique treasures of Edgewood's natural

resources and emphasize the importance of preserving them. The public's interest and participation in the walks has demonstrated their value, so much so that the docent led walks are now offered year-round. Second, the Friends staff the Bill and Jean Lane Education Center and host special educational programs there. This operational partnership between Friends and County Parks has exceeded our best expectations. The public has been very impressed by the way the Center is being run. We receive praise for visitors' experiences there and remarks on how much they enjoy their visits.

Last, the Friends' priority to strengthen its organizational infrastructure to better support its mission is demonstrated by the growth of your Board and the proficiency of the leadership. The staying power of this volunteer organization, the ability to deliver educational programs, and the growth of the programs are a testament to this leadership.

This year, the Year of Edgewood, which celebrates the Friends' 20<sup>th</sup> birthday and the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the designation of Edgewood County Park as a Natural Preserve, promises to be tremendously exciting. We hope the special events that have been planned will attract new visitors as well as returning guests to Edgewood. We see this special year as a way to strengthen our partnership with our invaluable volunteers and improve the public's awareness and enjoyment of this unique resource in our community.

The Parks Department is proud to be partners with the Friends of Edgewood Preserve, and we wish them another 20 successful years.

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### Coyote Ridge Hikes for Members and Volunteers!

As a special thanks for supporting nature and open spaces, the Santa Clara Open Space Authority has arranged free hikes at Coyote Ridge, 9 AM, on April 7, 2013, for Friends of Edgewood members and volunteers. At the height of the wildflower season, this interpretive walk explores the beautiful serpentine habitat that is the source for restoring Edgewood's Bay checkerspot caterpillars. Please, ***no children under 7 nor pets***. Choose a serene, gentle, 3-mile hike or a more adventurous 5-mile hike.

Space is limited. To register, visit:

[http://friendsofedgeswood\\_coyoteridge.eventbrite.com](http://friendsofedgeswood_coyoteridge.eventbrite.com).

**Join us for a birthday party:  
May 11 - 1 to 4 PM, with opening  
ceremonies at 1:30.**

Don't miss the premier of the original animal puppet skit - "It Could Have Been a Golf Course" - showcasing the history of Edgewood Park and what makes it so special, as seen from the eyes of the critters who live here.

## NATURE JOURNALING WORKSHOPS

by Kathy Korbholz

John Muir (“Jack”) Laws, renowned Bay Area artist and field observer, held his first Nature Journaling workshop at Edgewood on January 8<sup>th</sup>. This successful workshop was one of several kickoff events for “2013: Year of Edgewood,” which includes a series of **free workshops** offered the **second Tuesday** of each month at the Bill and Jean Lane Education Center in honor of the Friends of Edgewood’s 20th anniversary year. The workshops are paired with a field trip later in the month. For details, visit <http://www.johnmuirlaws.com/bay-area-nature-journal-club>. You can come to as many workshops as you wish, but please register by following the links on the Friends of Edgewood website.



© 2013 Kathy Korbholz

During John’s first workshop he insisted the ability to draw is not a gift but a skill. By sketching at least three times a week for 15 minutes on a regular basis, journaling becomes a habit, and the ability to notice details improves. He says anyone can show vast improvement after just a year of these short practice sessions. Be brave, try journaling; you will be rewarded with a keener eye for details and improved memories of what you have observed. Jack recommended trying what you are not already good at.



© 2013 Kathy Korbholz

Besides sharing his love of nature and keen eye for details, Jack shared tips and tricks for quickly capturing the essence of a flower, a creature, or a scene. In the picture, John is demonstrating how to use watercolors in the field to enhance a sketch and bring it to life. He uses a self-watering, self-cleaning brush and the cuff off an old sock slipped onto his wrist as his handy rag. *Simple but brilliant.*

### Log Your Activities & Raise Money for Parks (including Edgewood) - it's Free!

Last August, the San Mateo County Parks Foundation (the Foundation) partnered with the National Environmental Education Foundation and Plus 3 Network to increase its “social media presence”. To date, over \$500 has been raised toward the current \$1500 goal simply by logging exercise and volunteer activities that most people probably already do. According to Julia Bott, Executive Director of the Foundation, the number of registrants supporting the Foundation with funds from the Plus 3 Network has increased from 6 to 28 in recent weeks. ***We can do better!***

If you haven’t already done so, sign up and **log your exercise and volunteer activities to raise money** for the San Mateo County Parks Foundation; go to: [www.plus3network.com/cause/239](http://www.plus3network.com/cause/239).

### Edgewood Weed Warrior (EWW) Report

(submitted by Paul Heiple)

The total volunteer [weeder] hours in Edgewood a the period Oct. 1 through December 31, 2012 was 619.5 hours. Our total for 2012 was 3393.5 hours.

**Digital News Option!  
e-Explorer Is Available  
Now**

by Linda Leong,  
Newsletter Editor



As indicated late last year, Friends of Edgewood intends to begin distributing its newsletter via email to those who prefer to go paperless. We hope that email distribution will make our newsletter more accessible and readable. Of course, those who prefer to receive the hardcopy version will still be able to do so. (The newsletter is archived on our website [www.friendsofedgewood.org](http://www.friendsofedgewood.org).)

You can control whether you receive our newsletter via email, U.S. post, both, or neither. By default, everyone receives both types of media until we receive notice otherwise. Please visit <http://www.friendsofedgewood.org/newsletter-delivery-preference> to control how you would like to receive our newsletter.

Please bear with us as we work out any kinks in our database. We thank you for continuing to support the Friends of Edgewood and Edgewood Natural Preserve! 🌱



© 2013 John Morse

Photo: Frances and John Morse spotted this pair of Western Bluebirds on Jan. 18, along the Serpentine Loop Trail, downhill from the Sunset entrance.



**WILDFLOWER WALKS BEGIN**

**MARCH 16, 2013**

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**



**MEMBERSHIP DUES**

New or renewing members may clip and complete this section to pay tax-deductible annual membership dues. Please send your check, payable to Friends of Edgewood Natural Preserve, to the return address on the back of this panel. Renewing members can determine their membership expiration date by checking the six-digit code to the right of their name on the mailing label. For example, if the code is 06/2013, membership runs through June 2013.

Questions? Lv msg at (1-866) Go-Edgewood (1-866.463.3439) or contact [membership-coordinator@friendsofedgewood.org](mailto:membership-coordinator@friendsofedgewood.org)



- \$10 Student/Retired** (includes quarterly newsletter)
- \$25 Friend** (newsletter)
- \$50 Advocate** (newsletter, set of 6 Edgewood greeting cards)
- \$75 Supporter** (newsletter plus choose one)
  - Set of 6 Edgewood greeting cards and 1-year subscription to *Bay Nature* magazine
  - Toni Corelli's *Flowering Plants of Edgewood Natural Preserve*
- \$100 Steward** or  **\$250 Guardian** (newsletter, set of 6 Edgewood greeting cards, plus choose one):
  - 1-year subscription to *Bay Nature* magazine
  - Toni Corelli's *Flowering Plants of Edgewood Natural Preserve*

**Please keep the premiums and maximize the value of my dues.**

**I am enclosing a gift of \_\_\_\_\_.**

Please send (subject to availability):

\_\_\_\_copies of *Common Native Wildflowers of Edgewood* @ \$1.50; \_\_\_\_copies of the *Edgewood Vascular Plant List* @ \$3.00; \_\_\_\_copies of the Apr-Jun 2004 *Bay Nature* magazine @ \$6.00; \_\_\_\_copies of *Flowering Plants of Edgewood Natural Preserve* @ \$12.00. All prices include tax, shipping & handling.

I would like to participate in the following:

- Docent program
- Education Center host
- Newsletter/web
- Public relations
- Junior explorer program
- Habitat management
- Organizational support
- Adopt-A-Highway



- Please list me as a donor.**     **Please list me as "anonymous".**
- I prefer to be listed as \_\_\_\_\_.**
- Digital Newsletter Only**     **Digital Plus Mailed Newsletter**     **Mailed Newsletter Only**     **No Newsletter, Please**

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*Mission Statement of The Friends of Edgewood* — To protect and celebrate Edgewood as a unique treasure by promoting exemplary stewardship, and by reaching out with informative public programs. [www.friendsofedgeswood.org](http://www.friendsofedgeswood.org)

PRESERVE • EDUCATE • RESTORE

**Bill and Jean Lane  
 Education Center (EC) -  
 Spring Hours\***

Wed	9:30 am to 12:30 pm
Sat	9:30 am to 4 pm
Sun	9:30 am to 4 pm

\*Subject to volunteer staffing.

**2013  
 Board of  
 Directors**

Laurie Alexander  
 Bill Korbholz  
 Kathy Korbholz  
 Linda Leong  
 John Morse  
 Thanh Mougeot  
 Cynthia Schreurs  
 Jack Stovel  
 Mary Wilson



**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Adopt-a-Highway**

Next Sessions: 3/3, 4/6, 5/5, 6/1

To volunteer or get more information, contact Ken Seydel at

[adoptahighway-coordinator@friendsofedgeswood.org](mailto:adoptahighway-coordinator@friendsofedgeswood.org)

**Wildflower Walks**

Beginning 3/16, Sat/Sun, 10 AM

Admission is FREE!

**20th Birthday Party**

5/11 (1PM to 4 PM)

The Edgewood Explorer is published quarterly by the Friends of Edgewood Natural Preserve, a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving Edgewood for the human, plant, and animal generations to come. The newsletter is edited by Linda Leong and is supported by contributions from many Friends. For more information about the Friends of Edgewood, visit our website at [www.friendsofedgeswood.org](http://www.friendsofedgeswood.org), mail us at PO Box 3422, Redwood City, CA 94064-3422, leave message or fax us toll-free at (1-866) GO-EDGEWOOD (1-866-463-3439), or email us at [info@friendsofedgeswood.org](mailto:info@friendsofedgeswood.org).